

The Potato News Bulletin

Published by

The Potato Association of America

VOL. I. No. 1.

NOVEMBER, 1923

FOREWORD

In launching the publication of "The Potato News Bulletin" those instrumental in doing so are simply fulfilling one of the prime objects in the minds of those responsible for the organization of The Potato Association of America. It is hoped that as the membership of the Association increases, a much more ambitious and attractive publication can be issued. The success of The Potato News Bulletin will, therefore, be very largely dependent upon the activity of its members in securing new members as well as in the interest they take in supplying live, up-to-date information for its news columns, or in the contribution of informational papers on specific subjects pertaining to the potato industry. In so far as the finances of the Association will permit the pages of this bulletin will be available to contributors of articles upon any subject directly or indirectly related to the potato industry.

Membership.— Membership in The Potato Association of America is not confined to potato growers but is open to all classes of people having either a direct or indirect relation to the potato industry as a whole. For example, the shippers and handlers of potatoes, fertilizers, and containers; the manufacturers of fertilizers, containers, implements, etc., are all conceived to have a more or less vital interest in the potato industry. The annual dues are \$2.00 payable at the beginning of each calendar year. Make checks or money orders payable to The Potato Association of America and mail them to William Stuart, Sec'y-Treas., U. S. Department Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Each member will receive the monthly News Bulletin free of charge.--WM. STUART.

ANNUAL MEETING

The next annual meeting of The Potato Association of America will be held at the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, December 27 to 29, 1923.

In arranging the program for this meeting it seemed desirable to the executive committee and several other members of the Association to center our interests on three subjects, viz.—Potato fertilizers; Potato scab control; and Potato grading and marketing. One session will be devoted to each subject, and, as will be noted from the tentative program submitted, there is every prospect that every moment of each of the three sessions will be fully occupied.

The first session will be devoted to the report of the Secretary-Treasurer and to reports from the various chairmen of the Association's committees and the Presidential address. The fifth session is devoted to the presentation of papers on other subjects and to the election of officers, etc.

In order to give members an opportunity to attend evening lectures of the American Association for the Advancement of Science no evening program has been provided.

A cordial invitation has been received from the Secretary of Section O. (Agriculture) of the A.A.A.S. to participate in a joint dinner Thursday evening, December 27. At that time Dr. R. W. Thatcher will deliver the address of the retiring Vice-President of Section O. Please notify your secretary whether you plan to attend this dinner.

A cordial invitation is extended to all who are in any way interested in the potato industry to attend the meetings.

Hotel Gibson has been designated by the Cincinnati local committee of the A.A.A.S., as the headquarters of the Potato Association of America. This hotel is also to serve as headquarters of the Society for Horticultural Science; the Phytopathological Society; Agricultural, Botanical and Zoological Societies.

HOTEL RATES AT CINCINNATI

Name of Hotel	Without Bath		With Bath	
	Single	Double	Single	Double
Gibson	All rooms with bath		\$2.50-8.00	\$4.00-10.00
Sinton	All rooms with bath		3.00-6.00	5.00-10.00
Havlin	All rooms with bath		3.00-6.00	5.00- 8.00
Metropole	\$1.75-2.25	\$3.50-4.00	2.25-3.50	4.50- 7.00
Grand	2.00	3.00-4.00	2.50-4.00	5.00- 6.00
Palace	1.50-2.00	3.00-4.00	2.50-3.00	4.00- 6.00
Emery	1.25-2.00	3.00-4.00	2.50	4.50
Alms	2.50 up	3.50 up	3.50 up	4.50 up
New Rand	1.00-2.00	2.00-3.00	2.00-4.00	3.00- 5.00
Dennison	1.00-1.50	3.00	2.00	4.00
Savoy	1.50-2.00		2.50-3.00	(Stag)
Princeton	1.00-2.50	2.00-4.00	(2 baths on ea. floor)	
Oxford	.75	1.00	(Shower and bath on each floor)	
Eimer	1.50-2.00	3.00		4.00
Walton	1.00-2.00	2.00-3.00		
Honing	1.00-2.50	1.50-4.50	2.50-3.50	3.50- 4.50

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Forenoon Session, Thursday, Dec. 27, 10:00 A. M.

1. Introductory remarks by the President (10 min.)—Dr. W. H. Martin, Exp. Sta., New Brunswick, N. J.
2. Report of Secretary-Treasurer (10 min.)—W. Stuart, Washington, D. C.

Reports of Committees

3. Research (15 min.)—C. O. Appleman, Chairman, Univ. Maryland, College Park, Md.
4. Grading and Marketing (10 min.)—J. M. Hurley, Chairman, Syracuse, N. Y.
5. Storage and Transportation (10 min.)—W. H. Olin, Chairman, Denver, Colo.
6. Potato Contests and Exhibitions (10 min.)—J. G. Milward, Chairman, Exp. Sta., Madison, Wis.
7. Membership (10 min.)—W. Stuart, Chairman, Washington, D. C.
8. Seed Improvement and Certification (10 min.)—A. G. Tolaas, Chairman, Univ. Farm, St. Paul, Minn.
9. Varietal Nomenclature and Testing (10 min.)—Dr. E. V. Hardenburg, Chairman, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N. Y.
10. Presidential Address (20 min.)—Dr. W. H. Martin, Chairman, Exp. Sta., New Brunswick, N. J.

Afternoon Session, Dec. 27, 1:30 P. M.

Potato Fertilizer Symposium

11. Potato Fertilizers (15 min.)—Dr. H. A. Huston, Mgr. Potash Syndicate, New York City.
12. Potato Fertilization (15 min.)—Dr. H. J. Wheeler, Agr. Chemical Co.
13. Potato Fertilizer Experiments on Prominent Soil Types (15 min.)—Dr. O. Schreiner, U. S. Dept. Agr., Washington, D. C.
14. Nitrogen and Potash Fertilizer Salts in Relation to Potato Production (15 min.)—B. E. Brown, U. S. Dept. Agr., Washington, D. C.
15. Potato Fertilizers West of New York (15 min.)—O. F. Jensen, Soil Impr. Com., Washington, D. C.
16. Method of Applying Fertilizer Deep Below Surface of Soil (15 min.)—Daniel Dean, Nichols, N. Y.
17. The Use of Fertilizers on Long Island (15 min.)—H. R. Talmage, Riverhead, N. Y.
18. Discussion.

123562

Forenoon Session, Dec. 28, 9:30 A. M.

Potato Grading and Marketing Symposium

19. Individual Marketing (20 min.)—Daniel Dean, Nichols, N. Y.
20. Corporate Marketing (20 min.)—E. Percy Miller of Albert Miller & Co., Chicago, Ill.
21. Co-operative Marketing (30 min.)—Walton Peteet, Am. Farm Bureau Federation, Chicago, Ill.
22. Marketing Seed Potatoes (20 min.)—J. M. Hurley, Syracuse, N. Y.
23. Discussion.

Afternoon Session, Dec. 28, 1:30 P. M.

Potato Scab Control Symposium

24. Potato Scab Control Investigations (30 min.)—Dr. W. H. Martin, Exp. Sta., New Brunswick, N. J.
25. Soil Treatment for Potato Scab Control (15 min.)—Dr. O. Schreiner, U. S. Dept. Agr., Washington, D. C.
26. Effect of Sulphur and Commercial Fertilizers Upon Potato Scab in California (10 min.)—Prof. J. T. Rosa, Jr., Univ. Farm, Davis, Calif.
27. Results of the Sulphur and Seed Potato Disinfection Work in Michigan (15 min.)—Dr. G. H. Coons, Agr. College, East Lansing, Mich.
28. Discussion.

Forenoon Session, Dec. 29, 9:30 A. M.

Miscellaneous Papers

29. Six Years' Results in Determining Best Source of Seed Potatoes (20 min.)—E. L. Nixon, Agr. College, State College, Pa.
30. Ecological Factors Influencing Tuber Set in Potatoes (15 min.)—Dr. E. V. Hardenburg, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N. Y.
31. Pacific Coast Varieties of Potatoes (5 min.)—Prof. J. T. Rosa, Jr., Univ. Farm, Davis, Calif.
32. Further Studies in Field Plot Technic (10 min.)—F. A. Krantz, Univ. Farm, St. Paul, Minn.
33. Potato Storage Investigations During 1922-23 (20 min.)—L. M. Marble, Canton, Ohio.
34. The Potato Industry in British Columbia (10 min.)—C. Tice, Dept. Agr., Victoria, B. C.
35. Relation of Science to the Potato Industry, 1848 to 1923 (15 min.)—Wm. Stuart, Washington, D. C.
36. Election of Officers and Reports of Special Committees.

The Secretary wishes to remind those who have indicated their willingness to present papers that he would very much appreciate their being turned over to him as soon as they are read, in order that they may be available for publication in the Potato News Bulletin.

WM. STUART.

POTATO NOTES

PARIS HILL SECTION, (Oneida County) N. Y., Oct. 22, 1923.—

Farmers in this locality have about 95% of their potatoes dug at this writing. The majority of them have harvested a good crop very free from blight, rot or frost injury. Fields which were planted early produced unusually large potatoes, while those planted later set much heavier but produced a smaller, more desirable sized potato. Fields averaged about 250 bushels per acre, which is about 50 bushels per acre less than the normal yield in this section which is recognized as a high producing locality. Farmers are selling to truckers at the door at around 75 cents per bushel; others are hauling their own stock to Utica, our nearest city market, and getting from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per bushel. A few cars have been loaded at nearby points for 70 cents per bushel. The sentiment in this locality is that better prices will prevail in the spring and the majority of the crop will be stored in all probability.—**ALONZO G. ALLEN.**

ARKPORT (Steuben Co.) N. Y., Oct. 22, 1923. This section of country has a very good potato crop, probably 125 bushels per acre field run. The stock is round, smooth, and free from hollow heart. The tubers are well matured and of good eating quality.—**SEYMOUR BRIDGE.**

MARILLA, N. Y., Oct. 23.—There is 20 per cent of the potato crop to harvest at this writing. The quality is excellent and the average yield is about 120 bushels per acre, of which about 20 per cent are small. Potatoes are sold only for the Buffalo market. The growers are now getting 85 cents a bushel f. o. b. shipping point. The yield of marketable potatoes or No. 1 stock is the smallest of any for ten years or longer. Many fields are yielding not more than 100 bushels per acre field run, very few 150 bushels, and a still less number 160 to 175 bushels. The latter yields are exceptional. This report is for a radius of about six miles from my own community; am not informed as to rest of my county at this time. I am very busy harvesting my potatoes. They are handsome, running about 200 bushels per acre.—**THOS. McKEARY.**

COSSAYUNA, N. Y., Oct. 23.—The potato acreage is somewhat smaller than usual and the crop is very uneven, but averaging good. Quality is good with exception of part of fields, especially those planted in checks where potatoes ran too coarse and markets discriminate against them. There is practically no late blight rot. Sprayed and dusted fields are returning larger yields even though late blight did no injury to unsprayed plants. Local markets in north part of county have been good, about \$1.25 per bushel until October 15. Market now by truckmen \$2.00 to \$2.50 per bbl., and about \$2.75 per bbl. delivered. Formerly many Giants were raised in this county for New Jersey seed, but market discrimination and consequent low prices have largely discouraged the planting of this variety. No demand thus far for seed.—**Nelson S. Pratt.**

NOTES ON RECENT LITERATURE

W. NEWTON.—**The rest period of *Solanum tuberosum* in relation to available nitrogen.**—*Science* 58: 207-208, Sept. 14, 1923. Totato tubers were grown in pure silica sand to which nutrient solutions were added. The solutions applied to one half of the cultures contained nitrates, while those applied to the other half had no nitrates. When these treatments were applied to tubers in which the rest period had not been completed the sprouts in the cultures which received the nitrates appeared above the ground a week earlier than in those which had not received nitrates. When non-resting tubers were used, no appreciable difference was observed in the growth of the sprouts in the different cultures. These results lead the author to conclude that the breaking of the rest period may depend at least in part on the presence of a readily available supply of nitrogen. This is believed to be accomplished by the hydrolysis of proteins by enzymes.—*C. F. Clark.*

J. T. ROSA, JR.—**Seed potatoes.**—*Science* 58: XII, Oct. 12 1923.—The author's experiments indicate that the rest period of potato tubers can be shortened by dipping the seed pieces, after cutting, in a solution of nitrate of soda for a period of from 30 minutes to one hour. The strength of the solution suggested is $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. commercial nitrate of soda to 10 gallons water.—*C. F. Clark.*

F. T. GAYLORD AND C. T. GREGORY.—**More and better potatoes.**—*Purdue University Dept. of Agr. Extension Bul. 89*, pp. 1-24, Feb., 1923. The author's results from a three-year comparative test of certified and non-certified seed indicate an average net increase in favor of certified seed of 58.6 bushels per acre. The increases varied from 15 to 142 bushels per acre. The Early Ohio and Irish Cobbler varieties were found superior to all other for early planting in Indiana. Rural varieties alone are recommended for late planting. Two-ounce seed pieces were found to give best results. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture gave an average increase of 36 bushels per acre for the three years. The spray was applied with three nozzles to the row and with a pressure of 200 lbs.—*W. Stuart.*

GEORGE B. FISKE.—**Marketing the early potato crop.**—*U. S. D. A. Farmers' Bul. 1316*, pp. 1-31, May, 1923. The author discusses this subject under the following headings:—The early crop region; varieties; planning ahead; the price outlook; forecast from midwinter price; watch the other potato crops; a sample season; looking over the markets; market information; for local markets; for distant markets; get acquainted; mistakes of early shippers; what the inspectors find; object lessons in marketing commercial crops; to sum it up. The leading early crop areas are well defined and objectively presented on a map, Fig. 2. The comparative carlot movement of the early crop is graphically presented in Fig. 3.

The data given is based on a five-year average, 1917-1921. Table I consists of an outline of prominent early potato shipping districts. In Fig. 4 the author shows date of movement and carlot volume of states producing early potatoes. In summarizing his conclusions the author says the yearly shipments of early potatoes are 40,000 carloads worth some \$30,000,000. Prompt, quick, and careful handling is thought to be the keynote of the market problem. The common mistakes include careless digging and handling, poor sorting and grading, dirty stock, loose, weak packing, loose loading, poor ventilation, failure to send notice of shipment to the dealer, mixed or nonstandard varieties, and unusual packages — *W. Stuart.*

WELLS A. SHERMAN, GEORGE B. FISKE AND O. D. MILLER.—Marketing main crop potatoes.—U. S. D. A. Farmers' Bul. 1317, pp. 1-35, Aug., 1923. The main or late potato regions are defined. Movement of potatoes from the principal late-shipping states is graphically depicted in Fig. 1, as is also the relative importance of these states. Table 1 shows the bushel production of both the heavy and light shipping states, the car lot shipments and the percentage of the crop shipped. An attempt is made by means of a potato barometer to show trend of prices during short, medium, and heavy crop years and the policy the grower should pursue under each of these conditions. According to the author, successful marketing is largely dependent on good grading. Transportation problems are carefully considered. Prominent shipping sections are given in Table 3. Among the "few chief points" noted by the author are that a little over one-fourth of the average main crop is shipped to market in carlots or in their equivalent in bulk lots. An estimated yield above four bushels per capita has been usually followed by a season of low or falling prices. The whole matter of good marketing is summed up under four heads:—(1) Careful planning from planting time to day of sale; (2) full use of crop and market news; (3) good handling, grading, and loading; and (4) readiness to learn from the methods of other commercial sections. — *W. Stuart.*

PRELIMINARY SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION NOTES

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 24. — The acreage of potatoes this year in British Columbia has been considerably reduced. The yield per acre also will be smaller than usual on account of the continued dry weather during the growing season in many districts. The seed certification work which was commenced in 1921 is going ahead very satisfactorily. This year 140 growers applied for inspection for certification purposes; 248 fields were entered covering 177 acres. The first inspection reduced these figures to 219 fields covering 166 acres and the second inspection made a further reduction to 197 fields covering 146½ acres.

Netted Gem appears to be the favorite variety and has stood up well under certification; there are 77 fields of this variety covering $74\frac{3}{4}$ acres. The remaining acreage is made up of Green Mountain, Burbank, Early Ohio, Early St. George, Sir Walter Raleigh, Gold Coin, Jersey Royal, Irish Cobbler, and Early Rose. This is a large number of varieties to be certified in one province but on account of the varied climatic conditions it has been found necessary to do this. Nearly every grower who has both certified and uncertified seed potatoes on the same farm can see a great difference in the crop and as a result intend to grow all potatoes from certified seed next year whether they are raised for seed or commercial purposes.—C. Tice.

Fort Collins, Colorado, Oct. 2. — It now appears as if we will not have as large an acreage as we had last year. We have had more disease than usual and much of the certified potato seed has failed to qualify. Judging from our reports we shall not have over twenty growers of certified seed, with an acreage ranging from two to thirty acres.—E. P. Sandsten.

Boise, Idaho, Oct. 1. — While applications for only about one eighth of last year's acreage was received in 1923, the condition is not so bad as one might think. Inasmuch as last year we did not charge for inspection and had many mediocre growers making application, where this year with a charge of an initial fee of \$4.00 the great number of poor growers dropped out. The facts of the case are that our certified seed this year will not be much short of that of last year.—E. R. Bennett.

Augusta, Maine, Sept. 26. — There are approximately 13,400 acres entered for inspection this year, and while we have not completed our check we are going to have about 5100 acres pass both inspections.—E. L. Newdick.

Bozeman, Montana, Oct. 1. — As near as I can figure we will have all told the equivalent of 130 acres which have passed the field inspections. We have not had as great mortality this year as we had last.—F. M. Harrington.

Lincoln, Nebraska, Oct. 1. — About 2950 acres passed the second field inspection. Yields per acre run mostly around 150 bushels per acre on dry land; Newswanger at Alliance is getting 185 bushels. I presume we will certify between 2000 and 2500 acres, approximately 200,000 to 250,000 bushels. Final inspection will not be complete until the end of November. The quality of the seed stock is fine with regard to tuber diseases and type. We will have only 2000 or so bushels of Early Ohio; all others are Triumphs.—H. O. Werner.

Laramie, Wyoming, Sept. 28.—Our records show that $778\frac{1}{2}$ acres were entered for certification and that of this number 455 passed the second field inspection. Bin inspection is not completed.—J. A. Hill.